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for scientific generalization as well as for economic statistics. From both points of view the volumes before us justify the wisdom of the creation and support of the Second Geological Survey of Pennsylvania.

FOURTEEN WEEKS IN ZOÖLOGY, BY J. DORMAN STEELE.—The following facts in Natural History, which will be new to most readers of the NATURALIST are taken from Steele's "Fourteen Weeks in Zoölogy,"¹ a work by a "born school-book writer," lately published to "meet the popular demand" for instruction in Zoölogy.

"*Lophiidae* (crested).—The Fishing frog has the ventral fins forward of the pectoral. The latter serve as legs and enable it to hop about upon the beach. Upon the head are three spines—the first, with a shiny membrane at the tip, fastened by a ring-and-staple joint and able to move in every direction; the other two turning only backward and forward. The sluggish creature lies in the mud at the bottom of the water, and waving the first spine, attracts the curious fishes with this glistening bait; but, as they nibble, the rear spines knock them into its capacious mouth" (p. 190).

"*Percidae* (dusky).—*Perch* are found both in salt and fresh water. Their operculum is so constructed that they can be kept alive in the air for hours by occasionally pouring water upon their gills" (p. 191).

"*Siluridae*.—The Cat-fish, or Horned pout, has a naked skin, and the mouth surrounded by tentacles" (p. 195).

"The *Hydrosœa* (water-dragon animals) or Jelly fishes, have no mesenteric spaces, and the eggs are developed on the external instead of the internal surface of the body wall. Interspersing the tentacles and other parts of the body are cells containing long, spirally-coiled threads, barbed and serrated, which dart forth with inconceivable velocity to lasso their prey. * * * Mere transparent masses of jelly and only visible because of their brilliant colors, they move through the water rapidly and lasso their prey with great precision" (p. 271). And so on wherever one opens the book.

It seems to me, that we who believe in the study of nature as a "means of grace," ought to protest earnestly against such burlesques on science as this work and its companions. "I told them that I was not the man for such work, and I told them, too, that the less of such work that is done the better. It is not school-books we want, but students. The book of nature is always open, and all I can do or say shall be to make them study that book and not to pin their faith to any other" (AGASSIZ).—D. S. J.

¹ *Fourteen Weeks in Zoölogy*. By J. DORMAN STEELE, Ph. D., F. G. S., author of the Fourteen Weeks Series in Natural Science. A. S. Barnes & Co. New York, Chicago and New Orleans, 1877.